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SECRET SECURITY INFORMATION

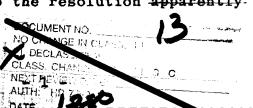
NSC BRIEFING

29 October 1953

#### FRENCH ASSEMBLY INDOCHINA VOTE

- Assembly on 28 October adopted by 315 to
   251 government-supported motion calling for:
  - a. Development of native armies to relieve French forces.
  - reach a general peace in Asia by
  - c. Assurance of just distribution of effort and sacrifice among free mations.
  - d. Continued adherence of the Associated States to the French Union.
- 2. Opposition to the resolution apparently-

included:



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- a. 100 Communists.
- b. 105 Socialists
- c. A few Popular Republicans
- d. The rest mostly Radical Socialists and Independents.
- d. (It is unlikely that any ex-Gaullists voted against the motion.)
- 3. Before a vote on this motion, the Assembly had rejected several opposition proposals.
  - a. By a 418 to 101 vote it rejected a Communist motion for immediate negotiations with Viet Minh.

- b. A Socialist motion calling for an end to the war through negotiations was rejected by 330 to 250.
- 4. Laniel denied any intention of fighting for total victory.
  - a. He assured the Assembly that France is willing to negotiate if the Viet

Minh seek talks.
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### 5. As a result:

- has probably gained support for its demand for five-power talks. (In mid-October Laniel and Bidault successfully parried such a demand which probably had support of majority of ministers.)
- b. In any event, the Reynaud faction will insist on taking every opportunity to implement point two of the motion (negotiations).
- c. The Navarre Plan assumes even greater importance than heretofore.
  - (1) If Navarre succeeds, French hope
    Viet Minh will ask for negotia-

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probably seek UN intervention or attempt to turn the responsibility for the conduct of the war over to the US on the threat of a complete withdrawal, even though the French have admitted that it is militarily infeasible.